

Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

March 2006

**City of Berwyn
Mayor Michael O'Connor**



**Berwyn Police Department
Chief William Kushner**



Welcome From Chief Kushner:

I am humbled and honored to have been selected as the new Chief of Police for the City of Berwyn. Please allow me to formally introduce myself; I retired in January 2006 after more than 29 years with the Chicago Police Department to accept this position. During my career I had been assigned to patrol, tactical, and investigative assignments. The Department saw fit to assign me twice to the Education and Training Division, once as a detective, and once again as a sergeant; during those assignments I was tasked with developing and implementing high profile training programs. Promoted to lieutenant, I served as a watch commander, tactical lieutenant, and unit commanding officer in the Organized Crime Division. The last 2 years of my career with Chicago was spent as the Community Policing lieutenant for the South Chicago District on the far south east side.

Interim Chief Dobbs and I spent a great deal of time together during the transition period, and he informed me of the growth and vibrancy of the Neighborhood Watch program. I applaud the efforts of the City, the Police Officers, and of you, the Citizens. The police cannot be everywhere and see everything; we need you, the attentive, involved citizen to help us by being our eyes and ears, to notify us when you see or hear things out of the ordinary. We will respond, and investigate as the law enforcement professionals we are. I look forward to meeting you all in person, and to serving the citizens of Berwyn now and in the future.

Sincerely,
William R. Kushner
Chief of Police

Don't Be A Victim:

Many crimes occur because the opportunity is given to the criminals to commit them. Since the middle of December 2005 through February 2006, the Berwyn Police Department has taken eleven (11) stolen automobile reports with one thing in common: ***The car was running and the keys were left in the ignition!***

Street blocks indicate incidents NOT the victims' addresses!

1. 1400 Clinton Avenue
2. 1500 Kenilworth Avenue
3. 6400 18th Street
4. 1300 Oak Park Avenue
5. 6900 Windsor
6. 1400 Harvey Avenue
7. 6200 26th Street
8. 1400 Oak Park Avenue
9. 3200 Oak Park Avenue
10. 6600 Windsor
11. 6600 Cermak Road

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Don't Be A Victim Cont...

As you can see this is an invitation to a thief. **Do not, under any circumstances**, leave your vehicle running with the keys left in the ignition.

There is a lot of truth in the old saying "an ounce of prevention is worth more than a pound of cure".

We always have the belief that being a victim, of a crime, happens to other people.

Well guess what? YOU ARE the other person in their eyes.

Take the time to help prevent becoming a victim.

Berwyn Police -Working For All Of Us

In local papers and in the news you will hear about the crimes being committed, but too often not about the crimes being solved.

Here is some good news: the Berwyn Police Department, in the month of February, made the following arrests in some areas of concern:

Please note that this is a small reflection of crimes solved and subjects arrested in February 2006.

“Subjects arrested responsible for 16 area Graffiti Incidents”

Incidents are indicated by street blocks not victims addresses.

1. 6600 W. Roosevelt Road (business)
2. 6600 W. Roosevelt Road (business)
3. 6501 W. Roosevelt Road (business)
4. 1906 Wenonah Ave. (Garage)
5. 1803 S. Wisconsin Ave. (Garage)
6. 1618 S. Wenonah Ave. (Garage)
7. 1314 S. Maple Ave. (Garage)
8. I-C tunnel @ Home Ave. (Tunnel)
9. 2109 S. Wenonah Ave. (Garage)
10. 2116 S. Home Ave. (Garage)
11. 1811 S. Wisconsin Ave. (Garage)
12. 1922 S. Wenonah Ave. (Garage)
13. 1817 S. Wisconsin Ave. (Garage)
14. 6518 W. 26th Place. (Garage)
15. 1917 S. Wisconsin Ave. (Garage)
16. 1933 S. Wisconsin Ave. (Garage)

“Subjects arrested in local Robberies also may be linked to cases in Oak Park and Cicero”

Robberies Cleared by Arrest:

1. Cermak and Kenilworth
2. 7100 Block 18th Street
3. 2200 Block East Ave.
4. 1800 Block Euclid

Also Cleared were two attempt Robberies.

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR REPORT ALL SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

Get Involved in Neighborhood Watch Neighborhood Watch Meetings

Wednesday, March 8th 7pm (Zones 1-2-3)

Wednesday, March 15th 7pm (Zones 4-5-6)

(Meetings held at the Police Department)

Police Patrol Zones

- **Zone #1** Roosevelt to Cermak / Harlem to Wesley (west side of street)
- **Zone #2** Roosevelt to Cermak / Wesley (east side of street) to Lombard
- **Zone #3** Cermak to BNSF tracks / Harlem to Wesley (west side of street)
- **Zone #4** Cermak to BNSF tracks / Wesley (east side of street) to Lombard
- **Zone #5** BNSF tracks to Pershing Rd. / Harlem to Wesley (west side of street)
- **Zone #6** BNSF tracks to Pershing Rd / Wesley (east side of street) to Lombard

“By The Zones”

This column informs you of concerning criminal activity in the police patrol **“zone”** that you live in.

Terms: **BMV** (Burglary to Motor Vehicle), **RES BURG** (Residential Burglary), **GAR. BURG** (Garage Burglary)

Incidents are indicated by street blocks NOT victims' addresses!

Zone 1: Graffiti, 1200 Wisconsin, 1500 Clinton, 1900 Wesley, 2100 Euclid, and 2100 Oak Park
Gar. Burg. 1400 Maple (**Subject Arrested**), 1500 Oak Park and 1900 Clinton. **Res. Burg.** 1800 Oak Park **BMV.** 1200 Home, 1500 Maple, 1600 Euclid, 1600 Harlem, and 2100 Oak Park **Robbery** 6800 Roosevelt Road, 1500 Clinton, 1800 Harlem, 1800 Oak Park, 1800 Ridgeland, 2100 Oak Park Ave.

Zone 2: Graffiti, 1200 East, 1300 Clarence, and 1900 Lombard. **Gar. Burg.** 1600 Lombard, and 2100 Clarence. **Res. Burg.** 6600 19th Street, and 1900 Ridgeland. **BMV.** 1300 Elmwood, 1800 East, and 1900 Clarence.

Zone 3: Graffiti, 6800 & 6900 Cermak Road, 2300 & 3000 Euclid. **Gar. Burg.** 6900 30th Street. **BMV.** 7100 Cermak Road.

Zone 4: Graffiti, 2500 Ridgeland, and 3000 Clarence. **Gar. Burg.** 2400 Wesley, 2500 Clarence, and 2700 Highland. **Res. Burg.** 2500 Lombard, and 2500 Harvey. **BMV.** 6200 & 6300 Cermak Road, 2300 & 2700 Highland, 6500 27th Pl. and 2700 Harvey. **Robbery**, 2300 Elmwood, 2500 Wesley, and 6300 26th Street.

Zone 5: Garage Burglary, 3400 Grove. **BVM.** 6700 Ogden Ave. **Robbery** 3400 Home Ave.

Zone 6: Graffiti, 3400 Cuyler, and 3400 Ridgeland. **Gar. Burg.** 3200 Harvey. **Res. Burg.** 3100 Ridgeland Ave. **BMV.** 3600 Gunderson, 3700 Ridgeland Ave.

Tips for Seniors:

Crime prevention is everyone's responsibility, not just a job for law enforcement. Seniors can learn how to protect themselves from crime by following these simple, common sense suggestions. Please also share these tips with your neighbors and friends *and* make it tough for criminals to work in your neighborhood.

At Home...

- Always keep your doors and windows locked. Install dead-bolt locks on all doors.
- Keep your home well lit at night, inside and out, and keep your curtains closed at night.
- Install a peephole in your front door so you can see callers without opening the door.
- Ask for proper identification from delivery-person(s) or strangers. Don't be afraid of asking if they are legitimate; they won't mind.
- If a stranger asks to use your telephone, offer to place the call for him/her yourself. Never let a stranger into your home.

- Don't leave notes on your door when you are gone, and do not hide your keys under the mat or in a conspicuous place.
- Never give out information over the telephone indicating that you are alone or that you won't be home at a certain time.
- When you are gone for more than a day, make sure your home looks and sounds occupied. Use automatic timers to turn on lights and a radio or television.

While you're out...

- Carry your purse very close to you; don't dangle it from your arm. Also never leave your purse in a **shopping cart**.
- Don't carry more cash than it is necessary. Many grocery stores accept checks or ATM cards instead of cash.
- Avoid walking alone at night. Try to have a friend accompany you in high-risk areas even during the daytime.
- Do not carry weapons; they may be used against you.
- Have your paycheck or government checks sent directly to your bank account.
- Never withdraw money from your bank account for anyone except **YOURSELF**. Be wary of con artists and get-rich schemes that are probably too-good-to-be-true.

In your car...

- Keep your gas tank full and your engine properly maintained to avoid breakdowns.
- Always lock your car doors, even while your inside and keep the windows rolled up. Driving with the windows closed also improves gas mileage.
- Lock packages up and other valuables in the trunk. Do not leave them on the back seat or on the floor of the car where potential thieves can see them.
- When you return to your car, always check the front and back seat before you get in.
- **NEVER PICK UP HITCHHIKERS.**
- If your car breaks down, pull over to the right as far as possible, raise the hood, and wait inside the car for help. Do not get out of the car or roll down the window until the police arrive.

Tips for Seniors Cont...

If you are a victim at home...

- If you arrive home and suspect a stranger may be inside, **DON'T GO IN. *Leave quietly and call 911 to report the crime.***
- If you are attacked on the street, make as much noise as possible by calling for help or blowing a whistle. Do not pursue your attacker. ***Call 911 as soon as possible.***
- If you have been swindled or conned, report the crime to the Berwyn Police. A con artist counts on their victim's reluctance to admit that they've have been duped, but if you delay calling, you help them get away. ***Remember, if you never report the crime, the con artists are free to cheat others again and again; you will have no chance of ever getting your money back.***

Ward Meetings

5th Ward- Alderman Ben Brocato
Friday, March 3rd 7pm
North Berwyn Park District
1619 Wesley Avenue

4th Ward- Alderman Michele Skryd
Friday, March 10th 7pm
Community Room - Berwyn Police Dept.
6401 W. 31st Street

6th Ward- Alderman Michael Phelan
Monday, April 10th 7pm
North Berwyn Park District
1619 Wesley Avenue

3rd Ward- Alderman Mark Weiner
Saturday, April 29th 10am
Trinity Church
26th & Riverside Drive

SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Seeking mature, responsible dependable adults.
Duties include assisting school children across streets at assigned corners. Applicants must be able to work under varying weather conditions.
The position is part-time / seasonal work which runs for the 9 month school year, when children are present. Assignments require two shifts a day for 10 hours or 12.5 hours per week.
Starting Salary: \$10.00 per hour.
Applications may be obtained at the Berwyn City Hall - 6700 W. 26th Street
All Applications must be returned to the Berwyn City Hall, reception desk.

An Equal Opportunity Employer

 **Save these Dates!**

White Sox World Series Trophy Tour

presented by U.S. Cellular, will be coming
to the City of Berwyn on
Friday, June 23, 2006

National Night Out

Sponsored by:
The Berwyn Police Department
and The City of Berwyn
Tuesday, August 1st, 2006
More information to come

Neighborhood Watch Meetings
Wednesday, March 8th 7pm (Zones 1-2-3)
Wednesday, March 15th 7pm (Zones 4-5-6)
Meetings held at the Police Dept. 6401 W. 31st.

For more information on Neighborhood Watch or if you would like to become a Block Captain please contact:
Jeanmarie Hajer, Director of Community Outreach, 788-2660 ext. 290 or JHajer@ci.berwyn.il.us